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Message Text

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12
ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 NEA-09 PM-03 SP-02

L-01 IO-03 INR-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 /049 W
---------- 062364
O R 281100Z JAN 75 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2252
USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 1041

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR PDIP IN VN VS
SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTRY EXPRESSES CONCERN RE "PRG" OFFICE IN
IN NEW DELHI

REF: SAIGON 981

1. LAST NIGHT DCM ASKED INDIAN ACTING CONSUL GENERAL (POPPEN) ABOUT NLF RADIO REPORT ON ESTABLISHMENT OF "PRG" GENERAL DELEGATION IN NEW DELHI. ACTING CONSUL GENERAL EXPRESSED SURPRISE AND SAID HE HAD RECEIVED NO WORD WHATEVER FROM NEW DELHI.

2. THIS AFTERNOON POPPEN, WHO HAD EVIDENTLY JUST RECEIVED WORD, CALLED BACK AND SAID:

(A) THE NEWS AGENCY REPORT REGARDING THE GENERAL DELEGATION STSTUS OF A "PRG" PRESENCE IN INDIA IS NOT RPT NOT CORRECT.

(B) THE QUESTION OF SETTING UP AN OFFICE IN NEW DELHI HAS BEEN A MATTER OF DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE GOI AND "PRG" FOR SOME TIME AND HAS REACHED AN ADVANCED STAGE.

(C) THERE WILL BE A "PRG" OFFICE BUT IT WILL HAVE NO DIPLOMATIC STATUS AND ITS EXISTENCE WILL NOT BE TANTAMOUNT TO RECOGNITION.
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3. IF POPPEN'S ACCOUNT ACCURATE NLF ANNOUNCEMENT MAY PROVE EMBARRASSING TO "PRG". IT MAY BE USEFUL FOR EMBASSY NEW DELHI TO PASS TEXT OF ANNOUNCEMENT IN REFTEL TO GOI.

4. IF POPPEN'S ACCOUNT IS ACCURATE THIS INCIDENT MAY PROVIDE US WITH A FURTHER OPPORTUNITY TO URGE GOI AT LEAST TO DELAY GRANTING "PRG" PRESENCE IN NEW DELHI. PERHAPS WE COULD POINT OUT OPENING OF OFFICE AT PRESNET WOULD BE ESPECIALLY POOR TIMING IN VIEW CURRENT OFFENSIVE BY NVA FORCES, WHICH RECENTLY TOOK OVER ENTIRE PROVINCE HELD BY GVN AT TIME OF CEASE-FIRE, WHILE AT SAME TIME "PRG" BOYCOTTS MILITARY TALKS IN SAIGON AND POLITICAL TALKS IN PARIS DESIGNED TO SETTLE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PROBLEMS PEACE-FULLY. WE MIGHT ALSO POINT OUT THAT "PRG" OFFICE SHOULD CERTAINLY HAVE A STATUS INFERIOR TO THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE GVN WHICH IS AN ELECTED GOVERNMENT AND GOVERNS THE VAST MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH VIETNAM.
MARTIN

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